

**MINUTES OF THE TELECONFERENCE
OF THE
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE**

September 15, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Wayne Stuberg, called a teleconference of the Board of Physical Therapy to order on Thursday, September 15, 2005, 9:05 a.m. The teleconference was held with the Credentialing Division's staff located in Investigations Conference Room, State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska and the Board Members and staff at their respective businesses and homes. This teleconference was duly publicized by distribution of the Notice of Meeting and Agenda ten (10) days prior to the meeting and posting the agenda at the entrance of the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting. The teleconference was held for the purpose of expediting board business.

Roll Call

The following Board Members and Staff of the Credentialing Division participated in the conference call:

Wayne Stuberg, Chairperson
Karen Brown, Vice-Chair
Susan Jeffrey, Secretary
Raymond Frew, Lay Member

Diane Hansmeyer, Section Administrator
Delores James, Credentialing Coordinator
Teresa Hampton, HHSS Legal Staff
Mary Steiner, Medicaid

Adoption of Agenda

Stuberg moved, seconded by Jeffrey, for adoption of the agenda. Voting aye: Stuberg, Brown, Jeffrey and Frew. Voting nay: None. Not voting: None. Motion carried.

**BILLING FOR PARAPROFESSIONAL
SERVICES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Hampton contacted Chris Peterson and Dick Nelson, Directors of HHSS regarding a letter that the Board wanted to send to all licensed physical therapists and special education directors and they referred her to Medicaid. Hampton then talked to Mary Steiner of the Medicaid Program and invited her to the teleconference in order to discuss the issue of billing for physical therapy services, which are performed by paraprofessional, and Medicaid's plan for solving this problem.

Stuberg gave an update on why the Board felt it necessary to write a letter of concern to all the physical therapists and special education directors. He and Heather Jenny, President of the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association, met with John Sterns, representatives from the Department of Education and the public school system to discuss billing for physical therapy services, which are done by paraprofessionals and also using physical therapists license numbers and social security numbers for billing purposes.

Steiner stated that at that meeting it was explained that Medicaid wants to pay for appropriate services and it came to light that what is happening now is that the schools are billing Medicaid for services that are

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Physical therapy related and it is implied that therapists are performing these services. She stated that they would address the services for physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language pathology. In order to address this problem HHSS would have to change their billing codes and this might take up to three months. Meanwhile, a letter from Richard Nelson would be sent to all special education directors and other officials in the public schools informing them of the problems and how the State of Nebraska proposes to address the problems. She estimated that the letter would be sent out within the next two weeks.

The Board was concerned about the length of time it would take to change the billing codes in order to correct the problem. Steiner stated that the whole computer system would have to be changed and because of the number of claims processed monthly, they would have to give carefully thought to the changes. They would also have to inform the school systems of the changes and how billing is to be prepared and submitted. And another important factor is what they do not to interrupt payment for services to the special education programs.

She said until the codes are changed the claims would come in the same way in order for the state to make payments. However, the services will be broken out manually for the Federal Government.

Steiner left the teleconference at 10:00 a.m.

The Board discussed sending their letter out because they were unclear as to when the letter from Dick Nelson would be sent out and they were concerned if the letter would adequately address their concerns.

Brown moved that the Board rescind their earlier motion to send a letter to all Nebraska licensed physical therapists and the directors of special education programs and that the board prepare another letter informing special education programs that they must break out services performed by paraprofessionals without onsite supervision by a licensed physical therapist and that this service must not be called physical therapy. This letter would be sent out without one week, unless HHSS sends a similar letter. If that is the case the letter from the Board will not be sent out.

Motion wasn't taken forward due to a lack of a second.

The Board will review the letter to be sent out by the State of Nebraska and then decide if they still need to send their letter. Another conference call was scheduled for September 29, at 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Borchardt, Secretary

